

Program Year 2008 State Workforce Information Grant
Employment and Training Administration (One-Stop)
Statement of Work Guidelines / Certifications
Work Plan Deliverables

(1) Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database (WID) with state and local data.

The Workforce Information Database in Maine is in the process of upgrading both the data server and web server. The web application will be updated to Virtual LMI 9.1.

The database will be populated to the fullest extent possible beyond the core requirements in order to maximize usefulness for state/local information delivery. The database will be updated continually in order to be as current as the state's most recent publications and data releases.

Staff will take full advantage of the available resources and training opportunities in order to ensure full utilization of this resource in meeting national, state, and local customer needs.

Completion date: On-going

Estimated Cost: \$100,171

Allocated Amount: \$75,294

Result: Maine has continued to keep our Workforce Information Database up to date with the latest information. We have also been working with our Information Technology Unit and the Vendor that developed the product on installing the latest version of the database. Once completed, this version will bring increased functionality to the users of that system.

(2) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

State-level long-term occupational employment projections for the 2006 to 2016 period are being developed in adherence to the methodology, software tools and guidelines provided by the Projections Consortium and Projections Managing Partnership. The structure of the economy and growth prospects differ greatly among regions in Maine, so we will develop substate long-term, industrial and occupational projections for the same period for seven regions of the state. A publication of the 2006 to 2016 industry and occupational projections will be developed.

The ALMIS Database will be populated with the projections data and the data will be submitted for public dissemination following procedures established by the Projections Consortium and Projections Managing Partnership.

In lieu of short-term projections, Maine will conduct a Job Vacancy Survey in the spring of 2009. The survey results will provide data about the quantity and quality of job openings by occupation by business size, industry, and geographic location. Information on wages, benefits offered, education and experience, vacancy duration and full/part-time status will also be collected. Survey results will assist decision making by policy makers, education and training providers, businesses, and job seekers, as well as provide an indication of the health and direction of the economy. The survey will be conducted in cooperation with Maine's Community College System, the Maine Jobs Council and Local Workforce Investment Boards.

Completion date: On-going

Estimated Cost: \$47,100

Allocated Amount: \$35,471

Result: Long term occupational employment projections were completed and published to our website at this URL: http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/pdf/ME_Emp_Outlook_to_2016.pdf.

Maine also started its Job Vacancy Survey which will be completed in December 2009 with results published in the spring of 2010. Here is a link to a description of our Job Vacancy Survey: <http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/jvs.html>.

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(3) Publish an annual economic analysis report for the governor and the SWIB.

Development of *Maine Workforce Dynamics and Outlook* is underway. The report will delve into broad demographic trends shifting the composition and slowing the rate of labor force growth; industry employment dynamics including hiring and turnover, and business starts, expansions, contractions, and closures; industry employment outlook; and occupational employment trends and outlook and the associated shifting knowledge and skill requirements. Our report will incorporate more in depth analysis using two new statistical series, Business Employment Dynamics (BED) and Local Employment Dynamics (LED)

Completion date: September

Estimated Cost: \$79,938

Allocated Amount: \$60,036

Result: Maine has completed its work on the annual economic report titled: The Maine Labor Market -Trends and Issues. The report is in the review and clearance process and will be posted to our website when approved. A copy of the report was submitted to ETA's regional office in a separate email.

(4) Post products, information, and reports on the Internet.

Maine provides electronic public access to the information in the ALMIS Database through the internet version of the Maine Employment Information Guide (MEIG), which will be updated and maintained continually. The MEIG includes services specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals and employers.

We are in the process of developing a new, improved web presence. We have completed extensive statistical analysis, usability evaluation, accessibility testing, and in-depth user surveys to assess how the site is currently used, what information users are most interested in, how they use the information, and features/content they might like to see on the website. In the next phase of the project, we will move into design and development.

Completion Date: On-going

Estimated Amount: \$93,206

Allocated Amount: \$69,987

Result: Maine has been working with our ALMIS Database vendor to bring the new version of their product online.

Maine has also been working on an extensive redevelopment of our website. While the website is in the review process and needs additional content, a preview can be seen at this link: <http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/index.shtml>.

(5) Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards and key talent development partners and stakeholders.

CWRI staff participated in WIB board meetings and regularly report on workforce developments and trends in WIB regions. We have introduced new regional publications, **Economic News You Can Use** to share a diverse mix of economic and labor market information in user friendly, accessible terms. At the request of WIBs, CWRI performs skills transferability analysis related to business closures covered by National Emergency Grants to assist CareerCenter staff in working with displaced workers toward re-employment. CWRI regularly interact with WIB directors and staff on a range of topics and respond to their information requests.

Completion date: On-going

Estimated Amount: \$50,831

Allocated Amount: \$ 39,471

Result: The Center for Workforce Research and Information has had strong presence at the Workforce Information Boards quarterly meetings. One CWRI staff person sits on two of the WIBs Board of Directors and presentations on current labor market conditions are regularly made at all four WIB's quarterly meetings.

Maine has also developed products for use by the WIBs including several Skills Transferability Analysis Reports in response to worker dislocations. Here is an example of one of the reports:

<http://www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/pdf/West%20Point%20Home/TORQ/WestPointHome.pdf>.

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(6) Conduct special studies and economic analyses.

A range of special studies are planned, including:

Through wage records databases CWRI tracks outcomes for a range of groups. We are currently working with the Maine Community College System to track employment and earnings of graduates by program to help them evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and make informed decisions about future programs. We are performing similar analysis of former participants in the Jobs for Maine Graduates program, and expect to take on other projects of this nature for educational institutions and workforce development agencies. We are also working closely with business and industry associations including Maine Manufactures Association and the Technology Association of Maine to collaboratively assess workforce and labor market developments.

CWRI staff regularly report on the impact on jobs and earnings of economic development projects and worker dislocation events for user groups in cooperation with the State of Maine, Department of Economic and Community Development. We also routinely prepare Labor supply studies for Maine and Company, the State of Maine's primary business attraction and marketing organization.

Call centers have been a primary target of economic development efforts in the state. In recent years important questions have arisen around the viability of the industry as some centers have closed and others have undergone changes in operations and ownership. CWRI will study and report on the industry cluster to help inform economic development agencies direct their resources.

CWRI staff is actively engaged in tracking employment and wages in composites engineering and manufacturing and boat building and other marine industries related to the North Star Industry Alliance under the WIRED initiative. A couple of other reports are the following: *The Impact of International Trade on Maine's Manufacturing Workers*, and *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Employment in Maine: A Labor Market and Workforce Assessment*.

Completion date: On-going

Estimated Amount: \$68,329

Allocated Amount: \$ 51,434

Result: Several studies and reports are in various stages of development including:

- Reports completed and in the clearance process:
 - The Impact of the Trade Act on Manufacturing Jobs
 - Green Industries
 - Worker Flows in Marine Trades and Boat Building
- Reports schedule to be complete by 12/31/2009
 - Health Care Occupations
 - Energy related Green Jobs
 - Jobs for Maine Grads Outcomes
- Reports to be completed in 2010
 - The Changing Nature of Seasonality on Maine Employment
 - Community College Outcomes